

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-18, 20, 21, and 23-29 remain in the application for further prosecution, claims 5, 8, 19, and 22 have been withdrawn. The Applicants' confirm that the inventorship has not changed.

Election Requirement:

The Examiner issued an election requirement, listing four groups of species. The listing of the species and corresponding claims are as follows:

Species I (Figure 5) 1-5, 7, 9, 13-19, 21, 23, and 27-29;

Species II (Figure 6) 1-5, 7, 8, 13-19, 21, 22, and 27-29;

Species III (Figure 7) 1-4, 6-8, 13-18, 20-22, and 27-29; and

Species IV (Figure 5) 1-4, 6, 7, 9-18, 20, 21, and 23-29.

As can be seen by the above listing of claims, however, there are a large number of generic claims. In fact, all three of the independent claims (1, 15, and 29) are all believed to be generic. The only claims that are species claims are dependent claims. Specifically, the only species claims are claims 5-6, 8-12, 19-20, and 22-28. Because all of the species claims are dependent claims, it is the Applicant's belief that the claims should not be subject to an election restriction. Applicant respectfully requests that the requirement that Applicant elect a species be withdrawn.

However, should the Examiner decide not to remove the election restriction, the Applicants elect Species IV (FIG. 8) corresponding to claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-18, 20, 21, and 23-29. Claims 5, 8, 19, and 22 are withdrawn without prejudice.

Conclusion

The Applicant believes the claims are allowable over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance.

If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

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Respectfully submitted,

By Cynthia K. Thompson
Cynthia K. Thompson

Registration No.: 48,655

JENKENS & GILCHRIST, A PROFESSIONAL
CORPORATION

225 W. Washington, Ste. 2600

Chicago, Illinois 60606-3418

(312) 425-3900

Attorneys For Applicant